

Staff summary



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Preservation versus Expansion

Public Perceptions of Maintaining and Providing Smooth Roads
compared to Building Major Projects

MoDOT Summary Statement

Based on three statewide surveys over a six-year period, we feel confident that public perception data supports maintaining the transportation system over building more lanes and additional highways. Included within the context of maintaining the system are the measures of smoothness, ride-ability, and the lack of potholes. Based on these survey results, it is clear that Missourians realize that, "we need to fix the roof, before we build a new room."

MoDOT Staff Findings

The Organizational Results Division was asked to summarize data provided in three statewide surveys regarding public perceptions of MoDOT's emphasis on maintaining smooth roads versus the expansion of the road system. The findings are listed below:

Excerpts from the 2000 Statewide Survey (1,581 residents)

Finding 3: Missourians cite large-scale maintenance and preservation of existing roads and bridges as areas for improving department performance.

- ♦ Large-scale repair and maintenance performance items received high negative discrepancy scores relative to other measured areas of performance (*meaning, more attention should be paid to this area than the department was allocating in 1999*).
- ♦ Statewide, constituents would devote 60 percent of MoDOT's budget to preservation and maintenance and the remaining 40 percent to expansion and new construction.

Overall Conclusion 2: In terms of transportation infrastructure work, issues related to pavement surfaces remain a primary challenge for MoDOT.

- ♦ On a Statewide basis, three of the top four negative discrepancies were providing pavement that lasts a long time, maintaining the pavement so it provides a smooth ride, and repairing pavement surfaces promptly (*meaning, three of the top four issues that respondents felt MoDOT should work on more in the future were related to pavement smoothness*).

Summary of Preservation versus Expansion Variables, 2000 Survey

Variable	% Satisfied or extremely satisfied	% Allocating more or a lot more future attention
Building new highways to meet future demand	52.6	76.9
Improving existing highways to meet future demand	49.5	82.9
Providing pavement that lasts a long time	40.4	83.0
Maintaining pavement so it provides a smooth ride	35.3	81.2
Repairing pavement surface promptly	32.5	82.7

Excerpts from the 2005 Statewide Survey (4,000 residents)

Most citizens feel there is room for improvement in MoDOT's performance in many specific areas of work.

- The areas of greatest need for future attention were those concerning pavement quality maintenance and meeting future demands on the highway system.

Allocation of State Fuel Tax Revenues (\$200 dollar base)

Response	Mean \$ allocated
Taking care of existing highways and bridges	\$83.49 (42%)*
Expanding and building new highways	\$46.21(23%)
Improving highway safety	\$37.44 (19%)
Reducing time spent in traffic jams	\$32.93 (16%)
Total	\$200.07 (100%)

While the "dollars allocated" question was expanded from the 2000 survey to the 2005 survey, in both cases, preservation issues garner about 1.5 times more emphases than expansion issues in both surveys.





Summary of Preservation versus Expansion Variables, 2005 Survey

Variable	% Satisfied or extremely satisfied	% Allocating more or a lot more future attention
Building new highways to meet future demand	64.6	89.5
Improving existing highways to meet future demand	55.9	95.2
Providing pavement that lasts a long time	48.5	94.9
Maintaining pavement so it provides a smooth ride	42.2	94.9
Repairing pavement surface promptly	41.5	96.2

Excerpts from the 2005 MAP Statewide Survey (3,100 residents)

Improving Transportation

When given a list of 20 ways to improve transportation in the state, these five ranked as most important:

- Improving existing highways to meet traffic demands: Essential to 44 percent of Missourians and at least very important to 84 percent
- Having smooth state and interstate highways: Essential to 36 percent of Missourians and at least very important to 79 percent
- Improving the maintenance of bridges: Essential to 33 percent of Missourians and at least very important to 76 percent
- The two remaining issues were completing projects faster and more efficiently, and, improving traffic flows to avoid delays during construction.

Transportation Choices

Missourians prefer a better job of maintaining highways, rather than building more.

- By 70 percent to 25 percent, Missourians prefer that the state do a better job maintaining existing highways over building more lanes and highways.